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WHEREAS, The Lee Plan amendments recommended for approval by the DCD includes the adoption of a new “Environmental Enhancement and Preservation Communities Overlay” (“EEPCO”) in the DR/GR which provides for a plan to restore and protect important natural resources in the DR/GR as an alternative to the Transfer of Development Rights Program which most experts will agree has failed to incentivize developer participation and protect the environment in the DR/GR; and

WHEREAS, The DCD planned EEPCO contains incentives to protect and enhance shallow aquifers in the DR/GR by requiring new planned developments in such overlay to implement a hydrological restoration plan to restore and improve regional flow ways, and to preserve wetlands, and other ground water resources, and further requires a significant percentage of the lands in such planned developments to be preserved and to provide for wildlife connectivity; and

WHEREAS, The DCD planned EEPCO requires each planned development to mitigate traffic impacts and to provide its proportionate share of the costs of needed roadway improvements to be determined based on a transportation study of collective traffic impacts to be completed by July of 2017, well after the planned approval of such planned developments and the initial start of construction thereof; and

WHEREAS, The DCD planned EEPCO would reward development plans that comply with the provisions of the new EEPCO with residential development densities of up to a maximum of 1 unit per acre for Tier 1 lands within the Priority Restoration Strategy (the highest level of environmental criticality for restoration) instead of the normal 1 unit per 10 acres as currently allowed; and

WHEREAS, The planned development proposals for Wild Blue and Corkscrew Farms, would allow such developments to have a maximum density of 1100 units for Wild Blue and 1325 units for Corkscrew Farms, which, along with other planned or approved residential developments along the Corkscrew Road corridor, will likely create significant increased traffic on Corkscrew Road and Ben Hill Griffin Parkway; and

WHEREAS, The Lee County Local Planning Agency has voted affirmatively to recommend that both such proposed amendments to the Lee Plan be transmitted to the State Department of Economic Opportunity (“DEO”), and the Lee County Board of County Commissioners (“BOCC”) has voted in the affirmative to transmit the Wild Blue proposed amendment to the Lee Plan to the DEO; and

WHEREAS, The BOCC will hold a hearing on the transmittal of the amendment to the Lee Plan proposed by Corkscrew Farms at their meeting on June 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The addition of a maximum of 2425 total units in the DR/GR to the east of the boundaries of the Village of Estero, when combined with the existing and already planned additional residential units on Corkscrew Road east of I75 are likely to cause significant traffic and safety impacts on the Village of Estero and its residents; and

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WHEREAS, The environmental benefits to be derived from the EEPOC restoration of flow ways, and other protection of wild life, wetlands and ground water resources, will not outweigh the costs to society which will be caused by additional sprawl and development into the DR/GR to the east of the Village of Estero.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Village Council of the Village of Estero, Lee County, Florida:

SECTION ONE. The Village Council hereby determines that it is in the best interests and welfare of the Village and its residents to declare its opposition to the approval of the development proposals for Wild Blue and Corkscrew Farms by the Lee County BOCC; and

SECTION TWO. In light of the serious and long-lasting negative impacts which would be created by the urban sprawl resulting from such development proposals, and which the Village Council finds would clearly outweigh any benefits to the environment and wildlife, the Village Council hereby, and with all due respect, urges the Lee County BOCC to disapprove both the amendments to the Lee Plan and the planned development proposals sought by both Wild Blue and Corkscrew Farms.

SECTION THREE. In the event that the Lee County BOCC determines that they will approve such amendments to the Lee Plan, the Village Council respectfully urges the BOCC to delay and defer any action on the planned development proposals for Wild Blue and Corkscrew Farms until a comprehensive study of the collective impacts on the roadways east of I75, and of the effects of such planned development density on the environment and wildlife in the DR/GR can be completed, and the major traffic and safety impacts on the residents of the Village of Estero can both be determined and funding provided to alleviate such adverse impacts.

SECTION FOUR. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL of the Village of Estero, Florida this 3rd day of June, 2015.

Attest:

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

By: Kathy Hall
Kathy Hall, MMC
Village Clerk

By: Nicholas Batos
Nicholas Batos
Mayor

Reviewed for legal sufficiency:

By: Burt Saunders
Burt Saunders, Esq.
Village Attorney